

## **DRUMS (family Sciaenidae)**

### **Freshwater drum**

*Aplodinotus grunniens*



**Similar Species:** None

**Identification:** High arched back, long dorsal (back) fin, rounded tail.

The freshwater drum is the only widespread species of this family in the fresh waters of the U.S. and is found from southcentral Canada and the Great Lakes south to Mexico. In South Dakota, the freshwater drum occurs primarily in the Missouri River and its tributaries. The freshwater drum lives in rivers, natural lakes, and reservoirs where it feeds along the bottom on immature insects, crayfish, and minnows. The drum is known for its “drumming” or “grunting” noises, which it produces with a special set of muscles that are vibrated against the swim bladder. Their otoliths (ear “bones”) are unusually large and can be over a half inch in diameter.

Freshwater drum commonly reach 5 pounds but can exceed 15 pounds.

